

POLAND: Trial of Dissident

The regime yesterday tried and convicted prominent dissident Mirosław Chojecki but gave him only a suspended sentence. A fellow dissident and two others were also given suspended sentences. Chojecki was arrested in March on charges of inducing two workers in a government printing plant to sell him a used printing press. Chojecki has played a key role in dissident efforts to print and distribute uncensored literature, and by arresting him the regime probably hoped to curtail such activities. The government came under strong pressure from the Catholic Church, Polish intellectuals, and well-known Western writers to drop the charges. In acting as it did, the regime demonstrated its right to press criminal charges against dissidents but also its sensitivity to the internal and foreign criticism that this case had generated. [REDACTED]

~~Top Secret~~

13 June 1980

Approved for Release

Date

AUG 1999